



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

August 26, 2016

MR. JOHN GREENEWALD JR.  
THE BLACK VAULT  
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1356749-000  
Subject: PATTON JR., GEORGE SMITH

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Records responsive to your request have been processed. In order to avoid charging duplication fees unnecessarily, we have made these records available in the FBI's FOIA Library (The Vault) on the FBI's public website, <http://vault.fbi.gov>. On the right-hand side of the home page, under the heading "Vault Links" you can search for your subject alphabetically (click on "A-Z Index"), by category (click on "Categories"), or by entering text into our search engine (click on "Search Vault"). For records responsive to this request, please enter George S. Patton as the search term.

The available documents represent a final release of information responsive to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

- ☐ In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E)/ Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.
- ☐ Additional records potentially responsive to your subject may exist. Please inform us if you would like the FBI to conduct a search of the indices to our Central Records System.
- ☐ Additional records responsive to your request were processed but are not currently available on The Vault. Please inform us if you would like to receive these records.

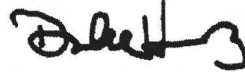
For questions regarding our determinations, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at 877-684-6448, or by emailing [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov). Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@ic.fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI Fact Sheet and Explanation of Exemptions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)



# FBI FACT SHEET

- The primary functions of the FBI are national security and law enforcement.
- The FBI does not keep a file on every citizen of the United States.
- The FBI was not established until 1908 and we have very few records prior to the 1920s.
- FBI files generally contain reports of FBI investigations of a wide range of matters, including counterterrorism, counter-intelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white collar crime, major thefts, violent crime, and applicants.
- The FBI does not issue clearances or non-clearances for anyone other than its own personnel or persons having access to FBI facilities. Background investigations for security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. Persons who received a clearance while in the military or employed with some other government agency should contact that entity. Most government agencies have websites which are accessible on the internet which have their contact information.
- An identity history summary check or "rap sheet" is NOT the same as an "FBI file." It is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and related documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI CJIS Division – Summary Request, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, WV 26306. Along with a specific written request, the individual must submit a new full set of his/her fingerprints in order to locate the record, establish positive identification, and ensure that an individual's records are not disseminated to an unauthorized person. The fingerprint submission must include the subject's name, date and place of birth. There is a required fee of \$18 for this service, which must be submitted by money order or certified check made payable to the Treasury of the United States. A credit card payment option is also available. Forms for this option and additional directions may be obtained by accessing the FBI Web site at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks).
- The National Name Check Program (NNCP) conducts a search of the FBI's Universal Index (UNI) to identify any information contained in FBI records that may be associated with an individual and provides the results of that search to a requesting federal, state or local agency. Names are searched in a multitude of combinations and phonetic spellings to ensure all records are located. The NNCP also searches for both "main" and "cross reference" files. A main file is an entry that carries the name corresponding to the subject of a file, while a cross reference is merely a mention of an individual contained in a file. The results from a search of this magnitude can result in several "hits" and "idents" on an individual. In each instance where UNI has identified a name variation or reference, information must be reviewed to determine if it is applicable to the individual in question.
- The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for records and provides copies of FBI files responsive to Freedom of Information or Privacy Act (FOIPA) requests for information. RIDS provides responsive documents to requesters seeking "reasonably described information." For a FOIPA search, the subject's name, event, activity, or business is searched to determine whether there is an associated investigative file. This is called a "main file search" and differs from the NNCP search.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

## EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

# *Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts*

*Subject:* MR GEORGE PATTON JR

*File Number:* 100-32520

*Section:* 1



## *Federal Bureau of Investigation*

## **NOTICE**

**THE BEST COPIES OBTAINABLE ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THE FILE. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION AND OR COLOR OF THE ORIGINALS PROVIDED. THESE ARE THE BEST COPIES AVAILABLE.**

# 'Re-Education' of the Germans

By Hans Berger

THE famous military expert but dangerous political ignoramus, General George S. Patton, tried to teach the Germans that the differences between the Nazis and anti-Nazis are more or less the same as those between Republicans and Democrats. General Patton did not say who are the Nazis and who are the anti-Nazis, —the Republicans or the Democrats; Hoover or President Truman. He was stopped before he expanded upon his wisdom.

Patton is, of course, an extreme. But he is only one of the reasons "why the American policy of denazification" is breaking down, to quote Mr. Daniell of the New York Times. If Mr. Daniell bites reaction, it is indeed news. It is proof of how far things have gone.

Isn't it high time an investigation of this whole situation is undertaken? Why shouldn't, for instance, the CIO send a commission to look into this breakdown of denazification?

If a Professor George N. Shuster, a very good friend of all the reactionary Bavarians, and anything but a true anti-Nazi has been sent to Germany for all kinds of shady business, why should not representatives of the CIO investigate the systematic attempt to save German Nazism and German big business?

## Two More Examples

Margaret Higgins in the Herald Tribune of Sept. 28, gives two more little examples of American politics in the occupied zone. Two small items, by no means as sensational as the exclamations of General Patton—but they speak volumes.

According to her report the question of insurance companies came up in the Kommandantura (the military governing body of Berlin). Pre-war law compelled every business and large building to carry fire insurance. One third of the concerns subscribed to a city-owned fire insurance company. The remaining two-thirds were insured by private companies.

Miss Higgins reports that the Soviet representative proposed that all fire insurance should be owned and controlled by the city. That would benefit all Berliners; the profit would go to the city instead of to an individual or a group of individuals. And the city administered by the coalition of the four democratic anti-fascist parties needs, of course, a lot of money for the most urgent reparations and reconstruction.

However, Col. Frank H. Howley, American military government chief in Berlin, together with the French and British, insisted that all the fire insurance should be handled by free enterprise "in the American way."

The Americans won out on this point. All the profits of fire insurance in Berlin will now go to the insurance companies at the cost of the Berliners. The American representatives "re-educated" the Germans by telling them what they have known under the Kaiser, under Weimar, and under Hitler—that private insurance companies are a holy institution, never to be touched. The interests of private profit come before the interests of the destroyed city.

The second case concerns the rate of bank interest. The Soviet representative proposed that the Berlin Bank and its branches should make loans at the rate of 4½ percent, thereby encouraging small businessmen to borrow and reestablish themselves.

No, says the American representative, in unison with the British and French. Only a six percent bank rate would encourage depositors. He won out again on this point.

The small Berlin businessmen will now have to pay six percent thanks to the American representative. The brave American colonel has successfully defended the most holy pillars of civilization—the profit of private insurance companies and a high interest rate on loans to the little people. No wonder that certain circles are impatient for the day when they can bring such marvelous proof of civilization to Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary. If one multiplies these two small bits of information by a hundred or a thousand, one will discover the spirit that creates such extremes as Gen. George Patton.

**Fritz Kuhn Helped**  
And now let us turn to still another problem. There are quite a few proven anti-Nazis in this country, trying to return to Germany. The State Department and War Department have so far refused them permission. Apparently, Germany does not need anti-Nazis.

It seems that what Germany needs is the import of Nazis from the United States. I am referring to the case of Fritz Kuhn, the former German-Bund leader, who has just gotten all the shipping space he needed for a return to Germany.

Kuhn and his whole gang of Bundists tried to make a Nazi America of the United States. They prepared pogroms. They would have slaughtered millions of Jews, democratic Americans, tens of thousands of labor leaders if they had power. They did everything to organize the Fifth Column for the big day when the crooked cross would fly over the White House.

Now, thanks to our Department of Justice, they are returned to Germany, and remain scot free, as a statement from the American authorities in Frankfurt tells us. Now they are in Germany to continue their work to substitute for arrested Nazis to organize connections.

What an irony! At the same moment that Gen. Patton is severely criticized for his open sympathy with well-to-do Nazis, "gentlemen imperialists," big industrialists with nice manners, nice social gatherings in the castles of the German upper classes—Fritz Kuhn remains a free man in the American zone of occupation.

After all, Germany does not need such imports from the U.S.A. There are enough Nazis there. Germany does not need German-American pogromists. There are still enough of this type on the loose in Germany. Germany needs a much more ruthless denazification, and not a donation of Bund leaders.

Of course, the Frankfurt authorities say that Kuhn will be watched. A few men from the Intelligence Service will trail him. So what?

Fritz Kuhn will be very careful in the beginning. He will talk only from man to man and he will choose his men. But he will be a center of carefully camouflaged Nazi activity and of Nazi propaganda. The American Intelligence Service will get tired after a while, but not Fritz Kuhn.

It was ridiculous to ship this Bundist to Germany. However it could have been justified if he would have been arrested there. To permit him to go free is a fantastic scandal. Is this denazification? Is this removing all the dangerous elements in Germany?

Let's hope this mistake will be corrected, and Kuhn will land in a jail for hard labor where he belongs. Let's at least hope that he will not become an interpreter for some military government official.

100-32520-18 is a clipping from page 6 of the DAILY WORKER

10-2-44

clipped at the Seat of INFORMATION COMMISSION.

GREEN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3-9-95 BY SP-1000



~~SECRET~~

Frankfurt, Germany.  
June 6, 1945.

Director, FBI.

Re: ~~NONFRATERNIZATION POLICY~~  
~~OCCUPATIONAL PLANS FOR GERMANY.~~

Dear Sir:

For the possible interest of the Bureau, I am transmitting this information to the effect that the nonfraternization policy is viewed by all of the intelligence officers with whom I have come in contact as a terrible mistake and one which should be immediately rectified. The main accusations which are leveled against this policy are, first, it is less practical than the Russian policy of shooting the men on their black list and fraternizing with the others, and, secondly, it makes effective intelligence and counter-intelligence work in Germany virtually impossible.

I have today had the opportunity of discussing this matter with General GEORGE S. PATTON, Jr., who commented on the nonfraternization policy as follows: "I want you and anyone else over whom you have any influence or with whom you can come in contact to do everything they can immediately to abrogate the nonfraternization policy. All it's doing in the sector where my army has been stationed is to drive the Germans into the arms of a people a great deal more dangerous to us. You're going to end up with a pro-Russian Germany if it continues."

I have also discussed this question with Brigadier General Sir DAVID PETRIE, Director-General of the British Security Services. He also expressed disfavor with the nonfraternization policy and stated that it was dangerous inasmuch as it was turning the Germans towards Russian influence and made practical counter-intelligence work very difficult in occupied Germany. He stated that it was his unofficial opinion that it would not be long before the policy was altered. (S)(u)

Any further information concerning the policy which will be followed in our relations from the American and [British side] with the native population of Germany will be immediately furnished to you. (S)(u)

Very truly yours,

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

~~SECRET~~

EX-25

126

ALD

Mr. Coney  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

United States Occupation  
of Civilian Areas

DECLASSIFIED BY SP5/ace  
ON 7/17/99  
Pursuant to letter from Butch  
dated 6/16/99

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

3/2/99  
CLASSIFIED BY  
DECLASSIFY ON:  
#400  
Declassified  
8-11-54  
VARA



# *Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts*

*Subject: GEORGE SMITH PATTON, JR.*

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## *Federal Bureau of Investigation*

b7c

to him his death as  
personal loss. It is very tragic.

for  
10  
miss

I trust you are enjoying  
your usual good health.

Here's a merry Christmas  
and a Guid New Year, to

You and your able colleagues

RECEIVED  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
JAN 31 1946

Yours sincerely,  
[Redacted]

Long may you live  
and prosper  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

b7c

[Redacted]

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E.A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

Dear Mr. Hoover.

I've just mailed  
few British newspapers  
show you how sad  
are, over the untimely death

of that grand America,

GEORGE S.

Patton 194-4adr20505

RECORDED

JAN 30 1946

INDEXED

Britain

58 FEB 6 1946

EX-7

look

Communication # 42  
Via Army Pouch

Paris, France  
Oct 22, 1944

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

RE: AMERIK-TRUPPE  
of Abwehr II

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

Dear sir,

On my recent visit G-2 12th Army Group at Verdun the following information came to my attention through an officer whose identity cannot be revealed.

At the beginning of October, 1944 a party of S.O.I. men conducted a raid on a chateau at Rocquencourt, France which had apparently been used as some sort of administrative headquarters for an Abwehr II group. Among the documents which were discovered was an outline for a training program for a group known alternatively as the AMERIK-TRUPPE and the GRUPPE ADVERSO. This training was to last one week and was to consist of lessons in military sabotage and stay-behind espionage work. The prime requirements were that the members of the group be proficient in English and able through the use of captured equipment, uniforms, and vehicles to pass themselves off as American military personnel. The organization was to operate, according to this document, as a section of Abwehr II. There was found no list of personnel or officers or instructors.

In a conversation with Lt General George S. Patton Jr, commanding General of the 3rd U.S. Army, this matter was brought up. The General advised that on about the 15th of October an American Lt Colonel and a Major had been shot and killed by Germans driving an American jeep and dressed in U.S. Military Dress. Also a woman of French nationality working for OSS who had been with them at the time, was captured and has not been heard of since. One of the Germans was also killed and his body left behind. A further check with C.I.C. of 3rd Army reflected that the Amerik-Truppe men, according to the same document found at Rocquencourt and an examination of the body, were part of Abwehrkommando #252, but carried the papers of the 14th Pioneer Sicherungsregiment.

Because of the source of this information and the fact that successful operations have been carried out by this group it is suggested that this matter be treated in the strictest confidence and not made available to any other U.S. Agencies.

b7c  
Very truly yours,

b7c  
[Redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/29/94 BY SP5 Jc/AG  
#400220

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

98-18606-59X

50 JAN 3 1945

400 noted for X-archival

EX-2

74

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 105-30313

~~SECRET~~

Frankfurt, Germany.  
June 6, 1945.

Director, FBI.

Re: NONFRATERNIZATION POLICY  
OCCUPATIONAL PLANS FOR GERMANY.

Dear Sir:

For the possible interest of the Bureau, I am transmitting this information to the effect that the nonfraternization policy is viewed by all of the intelligence officers with whom I have come in contact as a terrible mistake and one which should be immediately rectified. The main accusations which are leveled against this policy are, first, it is less practical than the Russian policy of shooting the men on their black list and fraternizing with the others, and, secondly, it makes effective intelligence and counter-intelligence work in Germany virtually impossible.

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Any further information concerning the policy which will be followed in our relations from the American and with the native population of Germany will be immediately furnished to you.

Very truly yours,

3/29/99  
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JAC  
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X

#400220  
Declassified  
8-11-54  
VAR

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

~~SECRET~~

EX-25

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105-7119-2  
C  
AD  
LD

Mr. Tolson ✓  
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓  
Mr. Clegg ✓  
Mr. Coffey ✓  
Mr. Glavin ✓  
Mr. Ladd ✓  
Mr. Nichols ✓  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tracy ✓  
Mr. Carson ✓  
Mr. Egan ✓  
Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓  
Mr. Nease ✓  
Miss Gandy ✓

United States Secretary of War  
of War

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Handwritten: *George S. Patton*

Handwritten: *Communist Party - general*

Handwritten: *File*

## Remove Gen. Patton!

ON TOP of the national scandal over Gen. Douglas MacArthur's behavior in Japan comes the case of Gen. George S. Patton, who looks upon the job of de-Nazifying Germany with the mentality of a Republican ward heeler running for county sheriff.

Two generals—both of them highly self-advertised, and supported by the pro-Axis press. Neither of them is carrying out the job of destroying fascism, for which thousands of American soldiers and sailors gave their lives.

Certainly, Patton ought to be removed. He ought to be disavowed by Gen. Eisenhower, and the State Department and retired on his personal fortune of millions.

This is not only a case of slapping helpless GIs. This is a slap in the face to every patriotic citizen, to our allies, to our whole war effort.

But the issue in the case of both MacArthur and Patton is not one of army men versus civilians. The fact is, as the N. Y. Times reveals, that many civilian subordinates in the military government for Bavaria share Patton's sympathy for German reactionaries.

They, too, are taken in by the Hitlerian humbug that Communism will sweep Germany if the fascists are removed from their posts. And Patton would not dare to act as he does if powerful civilians—American industrialists and their friends in diplomatic circles—were not backing him up.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/29/99 BY SP3/LA

# 400220

100-3-A  
NOT RECORDED

87 OCT 12 1945

INDEXED

EX-17

This is a clipping from  
page 6 of the  
DAILY WORKER

Date 9-23-45

Clipped at the Seat of  
Government.

57 OCT 18 1945

New York, N.Y.  
June 11, 1945

Mr. Hoover:

I thought you might be interested in reading, if you have not had an opportunity heretofore, the text of the talk which General George Patton is alleged to have given to his troops of the Third Army in England on the eve of the invasion of Europe. It is contained in the column of John O'Donnell which appeared in the New York Daily News yesterday, copy of which is attached hereto.

E. E. CONROY

Attachment

RECORDED

INDEXED

94-8-131-279  
JUN 12 1945

EX-84  
52 JUN 20 1945



# CAPITOL STUFF

By JOHN O'DONNELL

Washington, D. C., May 30.—In the great drama of this war, there have been only two characters on the global stage who will go down in history for their ability to use their native tongue as well as to command men in battle. These two great captains of fighting forces are Douglas MacArthur and George Patton.

Facially enough, both are poets. Old Blood and Guts, pistol-packing Patton has turned out some authentic verse—at least, the Patton version seems to make sense, and suggest a soft and sensitive groping toward some fragile and tender ideal.

MacArthur loves the rich beauty of words and, because his father dictated his routine military correspondence with the florid gusto of an Elizabethan poet and the young MacArthur lapped it up at the breakfast table, the dispatches of the Pacific commander, at times, flare with rhetorical pyrotechnics.

The world is familiar with MacArthur's dramatic epithets and colorful phrases. Patton's use of language has been more restricted and all too frequently reached this nation at second to third hand.

## Patton Talks Off the Cuff to All of His Boys.

In recent days, this capital has been permitted to read and enjoy a restricted copy of Patton's famous address to his troops of the 3d Army, on the eve of the invasion of the Continent. The result of the address, carried by loud speakers to all the men of his command, is history. We can see no reason why security should restrict its publication—after all, the war in Europe is over.

Here is the Patton speech—and a fine use of American we think it is. After all, the general was talking off the cuff to his men. The splendid and moving words of Leonidas at the pass of Thermopylae over 2,400 years ago were thought up by Herodotus and Plutarch many years later.

Patton had to let fly and his words became immediate history. Here's what he said that day, according to the manuscript we've received. Some deletions have been necessary.

"Men, this stuff some sources sling around about America wanting to stay out of the war and not wanting to fight is a lot of baloney. Americans love to fight."

traditionally. All real Americans love the sting of clash of battle. America loves a winner. America will not tolerate a loser. Americans despise a coward. Americans play to win. That's why America has never lost and never will lose a war, for the very thought of losing is hateful to an American.

"You are not all going to die. Only 2% of you, right here today, would be killed in a major battle. Death must not be feared. Death in time comes to all of us, and every man is scared in his first action. If he says he's not, he's a goddam liar. Some men are cowards, yes, but they fight just the same, or get the hell slammed out of them. The real hero is the man who fights, even though he's scared. Some get over their fright in a minute, under fire. Others take an hour. For some it takes days. But every man will never let the bastards sneak up behind him. A man must be alert all the time if he expects to stay alive. Not some German son-of-a-bitch will sneak up behind him. There are 400 neatly marked graves somewhere in Italy. All became ONE man, went to sleep on his job. But the German graves because we caught the bastards asleep. An army is a team. It lives, sleeps, fights and eats as a team. This individual hero stuff is for the bastards who write that kind of stuff for the papers. They don't know any more about real fighting under fire than they know about real love. Every single man in the Army plays a vital role. Every man has his job to do and must do it. What if every truck driver decided he didn't like the white of a shell overboard, turned yellow and jumped headlong into a ditch? We wouldn't be here today. We wouldn't be here today."

"Where in hell would we be now? Where would our country and loved ones, our homes, even the world be? No, thank God, Americans don't think like that. Every man does his job, serves the whole. Ordnance men supply and maintain the guns and vast machinery of this war to keep us rolling. Quartermasters bring up clothes and food, for where we're going, there isn't a hell of a lot to steal. Every man on KP has a job to do, even the guy who boils the water in kettles from getting the GI. Remember, Men, you don't know I'm here. No mention is to be made in any letters. The U. S. A. is supposed to be wondering what the hell has happened to me. I'm not supposed to be commanding this army; I'm not even supposed to be in England. Let the first bastards to find out be the goddam Germans. I want them to look up and howl, 'ACH, IT'S THE GODDAM 3D ARMY AND THAT SON-OF-A-BITCH PATTON AGAIN.' We want to get this thing over and get the hell out of here and get at those purple bastards. The shortest road home is through Berlin and Tokyo. We'll win this war, but we'll win it only by showing the enemy we have more guts than they have or ever will have. There's one great thing that you men can say when it's all over and you're home once more. You can thank God that 20 years from now when you're sitting around the fire with your grandson on your knee and he asks what you did in the war, you won't have to shift him to the other knee, cough, and say, 'I swung a shovel in Louisiana.' All of which indicates that old Blood and Guts knows how to use his native tongue."



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